

## 2023-11-14 BCOS Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
  - a. Matt Austin - here, in person
  - b. Kate-Lyn Edwards - absent
  - c. Matt Flaherty - absent
  - d. David Maenner - here, in person
  - e. Nejla Routsong - absent
  - f. Nolan Hendon - absent
  - g. Emma Ferguson - here, in person
  - h. Jon Eldon - here, in person
  - i. Jessica Davis - absent
  - j. Hannah Gregory - here, in person
  - k. Justin Vasel - here, in person
  - l. Alex Hakes - absent
  - m. Heidi Dowding - absent
  - n. Dennis Vera - here, in person
3. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Approved, no objections
4. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Made edit about zoom link issues to last month's meeting minutes
  - b. Approved
5. Public Comment (15-20 minutes, up to 3 minutes per person)
  - a. Junior Sarah from BHSS SAGE's program
    - i. Weed wrangles, planning a tree planting at BHSS
    - ii. Bringing folks to talk about environmental topics
6. Report from Acting Chair
  - a. Emma and David met with 3 members + staff liaison of BEC to talk about whether or not a merge would be beneficial
    - i. Both BCOS and BEC feel confident that each commission should remain it's own, no merge
    - ii. Need to review and make updates to our City commission code for BCOS and BEC and refine points of interest/goals and counterpoints to why we shouldn't merge
      1. Will send final points to special commission
7. Report from Staff Liaison
  - a. BCOS Neighborhood Grant Program Update
    - i. Launched grant, applications are open
      1. Money needs to be under contract by end of year
      2. BCOS members encouraged to share RFP

- 3. \$1,000 limit per grant, \$10,000 total available
- b. BCOS Working Group Grant Program Update
  - i. Launched grant, available for members to apply
  - ii. Staff liaison will review, BCOS member will vote on projects to fund
  - iii. No cap per project, \$10,000 in total funds to allocate
- c. E Bike Voucher program going very well!
- d. Working on a Climate Action Dashboard
  - i. Pubic display of Climate Action Plan highlights, how the City is making progress towards plan
- 8. Report from Council Ex-Officio
  - a. Matt said via email: *I hope the commission is able to further its discussion about potential updates to Bloomington Municipal Code with respect to the commission's role, responsibilities, and procedures. You can find the relevant section of code here: [BMC 2.12.100](#). Please take time to review the language carefully (8 sections in total, fairly short overall) and consider what updates might be needed to align the language with BCOS practice and goals. At our last meeting, we briefly touched base on incorporating the SDGs as a guiding framework and supporting implementation of the city's Climate Action Plan.*
- 9. Reports from Commissioners
  - a. Just Transition Working Group
    - i. Started meeting biweekly
    - ii. Climate justice and homelessness, started by understanding how homeless individuals are impacted by climate change impacts such as extreme heat
      - 1. Will be doing interviews
      - 2. Creating potential care packages with grant funding
  - b. Community Outreach
    - i. Goal 1: Action strategy will be wrapped up in the next month and Justin will share with commission for review
    - ii. Goal 2: Establish relationship with top 7 partners, working towards reaching out to at least a handful of groups to get a conversation going
    - iii. Goal 3: Facilitate one outreach project before the end of year, might need to table for next year
  - c. Waste Management
    - i. Mara Flynn added to the working group as a resident
- 10. Discussions Not Resolutions
  - a. City Code [BMC 2.12.100](#)

- i. Current public policy/purpose: Public Policy and Purpose. A sustainable community seeks to enhance the socio-environmental-economic well-being of the community while taking precautions not to compromise the quality of life of future generations. Toward that end, it reduces its use of nonrenewable natural resources and its production of wastes, while at the same time improving livability. The mission of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability is to promote sustainable socio-environmental-economic well-being of Bloomington and all its inhabitants.
- ii. Current powers and duties: The commission shall have the following powers and duties:
  1. To coordinate ongoing and to propose and promote new sustainability initiatives among residents, businesses, governmental, nongovernmental agencies and educational organizations through education and outreach programs
  2. To advise and make recommendations to the Bloomington common council, city administration, and city boards and commissions on policies and programs that infuse the work of city government with an operating philosophy based on sustainability;
  3. To determine, in cooperation with other city boards and commissions, Bloomington's current and future sustainability status by developing and monitoring a set of sustainability indicators
  4. To provide, in cooperation with other city boards and commissions, an annual "sustainability assessment" based on said indicators. The assessment shall be included in an annual report and provided to the common council, mayor and the public
  5. To advise, consult and cooperate with other agencies, boards and commissions of the city of Bloomington, the state, other local governments, industries, other states, interstate or interlocal agencies, and the federal government, and with interested persons or groups on matters of sustainability
  6. To adopt administrative rules and regulations for the conduct of its business
  7. To research and apply for grants or other funds or gifts from public or private agencies for the purpose

of carrying out any of the provisions or purposes of this section.

- b. Should we list out SDG's in our purpose? Should we just reference them in order to simplify?
  - c. Should we include specific terms such as equity and affordability in lieu of/in addition to socio-economic-environmental?
  - d. Need to have edits finalized and sent to special committee by November 20th
  - e. Note: not necessarily editing the code itself, need to clarify our roles to the special committee based on current city code
- 11. Resolutions for First Reading
  - 12. Resolutions for Second Reading
  - 13. New Business
    - a. Jon - IU Sustainability is not very active right now, SPEA redefining some of the Master Degrees programs to make them more practical for students that give them real-world training
      - i. Possible collaboration with BCOS, engaging students and possibly having them do sustainability assessments for local orgs/companies/etc.
      - ii. David wants to support this effort, in line with his project management goals for BCOS
  - 14. Adjournment

Next Meeting: December 12, 2023 at 6 pm